

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

No claims are canceled, amended or added by this paper. The following is a listing of the claims pending in this application.

1. – 20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Previously Presented)** An electronic equipment rack for receiving a plurality of functional modules, each of which includes a corresponding card, the electronic equipment rack comprising:

a chassis, comprising:

a housing;

a backplane attached to the housing; and

a cover attached to the backplane and to the housing;

a printed circuit board assembly substantially disposed within the chassis; and

a plurality of card guides substantially disposed within the chassis in a spaced apart arrangement with respect to each other, each of the card guides being engaged with the printed circuit board assembly, the backplane and the cover.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein each of the card guides comprises:

a first engagement element that engages the printed circuit board assembly;

a second engagement element that engages the backplane; and

a third engagement element that engages the cover.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 22, wherein the cover includes a self-clinching tie mount arranged to engage the third engagement element.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein adjacent card guides are disposed opposite each other at a distance generally corresponding to a width of a functional module card.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein each card guide is releasably engaged with the printed circuit board assembly, the backplane and the cover.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define a plurality of card storage levels.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of card guides comprises first and second end card guides and a middle card guide, the first and second card guides being positioned on either side of the middle card guide such that:

a distance between the middle card guide and the first end card guide generally corresponds to a width of a functional module card; and

a distance between the middle card guide and the second end card guide generally corresponds to a width of a functional module card.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define at least two side-by-side card storage slots.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define at least two stacked card storage slots.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 33, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define:

at least two stacked card storage slots; and

at least two side-by-side card storage slots.

31. **(Previously Presented)** A fastenerless connection system, comprising:
a plurality of engagement elements, where:
a first engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a printed circuit board assembly;
a second engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a backplane of an electronic equipment chassis; and
a third engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a cover of an electronic equipment chassis; and
corresponding structure configured to engage the plurality of engagement elements, the corresponding structure comprising a portion of one or more card guides.
32. **(Previously Presented)** The fastenerless connection system as recited in claim 31, wherein a portion of the corresponding structure is configured to releasably engage an engagement element.
33. **(Previously Presented)** The fastenerless connection system as recited in claim 31, wherein a portion of the corresponding structure is configured to permanently engage an engagement element.
34. **(Previously Presented)** An electronic equipment rack configured to receive a plurality of functional modules, each of which includes a corresponding card, the electronic equipment rack comprising:
a chassis, comprising:
a housing;
a backplane attached to the housing; and
a cover attached to the backplane and to the housing;
a plurality of self-clinching tie mounts attached to the cover;
a printed circuit board assembly substantially disposed within the interior of the electronic equipment chassis; and
a plurality of card guides disposed within the chassis in a spaced apart arrangement with respect to each other, each of the card guides engaged with a corresponding self-clinching tie mount.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein adjacent card guides are disposed opposite each other at a distance generally corresponding to a width of a functional module card.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define a plurality of card storage levels.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides comprises first and second end card guides and a middle card guide, the first and second card guides being positioned on either side of the middle card guide such that:

a distance between the middle card guide and the first end card guide generally corresponds to a width of a functional module card; and

a distance between the middle card guide and the second end card guide generally corresponds to a width of a functional module card.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define at least two side-by-side card storage slots.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define at least two stacked card storage slots.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define:

at least two stacked card storage slots; and

at least two side-by-side card storage slots.